

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 107090
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-----112026Z 026363 /70
O 111810Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////
ABIDJAN FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM AND UNDER SECRETARY COOPER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE US/NIGERIAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: A) STATE 106114; B) LAGOS 1973

1. DEPTOFF TELEPHONED NIGERIAN EMBASSY ECONOFF BORODO TO
DISCUSS ARTICLE APPEARING IN NEW YORK TIMES, MAY 10 (REFTEL
A) WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH: QUOTE: NIGERIA
AND THE UNITED STATES ARE KNOWN TO BE DISCUSSING SETTING UP
A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION TO ENCOURAGE AMERICAN INVESTORS
AND INCREASED TRADE. THE DISCUSSIONS, ACCORDING TO BASHIR
BORODO, ECONOMIC MINISTER (SIC.) OF THE NIGERIAN EMBASSY,
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ARE GOING ON "AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL", WHICH MEANS THAT THEY
INVOLVE LIEUT. GEN. OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, THE HEAD OF STATE.
UNQUOTE.

2. BORODO CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO THE NEW YORK TIMES
REPORTER AND IMPLIED THAT THE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE
SEVERAL DAYS AGO. HE WAS VAGUE CONCERNING DISCUSSION HE

BELIEVED TO BE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. DEPTOFF ASKED IF HE WAS REFERRING TO AMB. YOUNG'S COMMENT TO NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE DURING FORMER'S FEBRUARY VISIT TO NIGERIA (LAGOS 1973). BORODO AGREED AND THEN MENTIONED NOTE VERBAL HE UNDERSTOOD HAD BEEN SENT TO HIS GOVERNMENT

BY US IN 1975 AND WHICH HAS GONE UNANSWERED TO DATE. HE IMPLIED THERE HAS BEEN A RETHINKING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ISSUE IN LAGOS, THAT MEA HAS ANALYZED THE CONCEPT, AND THAT EXTAFF COMMISSIONER "MAY HAVE TAKEN IT UP WITH THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND PERHAPS WITH THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL". BORODO SAID HE IS AWARE THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS AT MEA'S ECON DIVISION WHO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMISSION PROVIDING FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS WHILE OTHERS IN SAME DIVISION HAVE RESERVATIONS BASED ON FEARS OF "POLITICAL CONDITIONS U.S. MIGHT IMPOSE".

3. DEPTOFF EXPLAINED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, WITH EXCEPTION OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S COMMENTS ON SUBJECT TO GENERAL OBASANJO, IDEA OF JOINT COMMISSION LAST DISCUSSED WITH FMG BY AMBASSADOR EASUM IN MID-1975. DEPTOFF SAID WE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN RETHINKING WAYS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH NIGERIA AND WOULD WELCOME EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE EMBASSY. BORODO REPLIED HE WOULD FIRST RAISE ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR SANU (WHO IS CURRENTLY ON VISIT TO MEXICO WHERE HE IS ALSO ACCREDITED) AND CONTACT DEPARTMENT SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

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4. DEPT. HAS NO RECORD THAT DIPLOMATIC NOTE EVER SENT TO FMG, ON THIS SUBJECT. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLELE DID SEND LETTER TO NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO UN HARRIMAN, ON DECEMBER 24, 1975, TRANSMITTING DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO EXISTING U.S. JOINT COMMISSIONS. LETTER WAS FOLLOW-UP TO MEETING BETWEEN GARBA, HARRIMAN, AND SCHAUFLELE IN NEW YORK ON DECEMBER 7, 1975, IN WHICH HARRIMAN REQUESTED THIS INFORMATION. CHRISTOPHER

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Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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From: STATE
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ISecure: 1
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